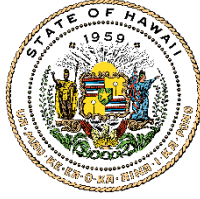


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, January 24, 2024
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2228
RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2228 proposes to authorize the use of the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Program special fund to support the State Fire Council and its programs and activities, including for the hiring of administrative personnel. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Wildfires pose a significant threat to Hawai'i's natural environment. This bill will provide the State Fire Council with additional funds to enhance fire prevention and safety programs across the state. The Department believes that providing the State Fire Council with these additional resources will contribute to reducing fire risks in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2228, Relating to the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports SB 2228, which authorizes additional uses for and appropriates moneys in the RIPC program special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, State of Hawaii, a representative from the Hawaii State Aircraft Fire Fighting Unit (ARFF); and a representative from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DOFAW), and is administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes §132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

On July 6, 2008, during the 24th Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed, and Hawaii became the 36th state requiring only RIPC be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC-compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

Page 2

January 19, 2024

brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before an RIPC Program Specialist was hired on January 16, 2014.

Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawaii's RIPC law. Besides paying for the RIPC Program Specialist's salary, funds from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

At the end of fiscal year 2023, there was approximately \$500,000 in the RIPC special fund. The SFC envisions excess RIPC funds could be used to help assess Hawaii's urban, suburban, rural, and wildland fire risk and develop mitigation strategies.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC urges the committee's approval of SB 2228.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

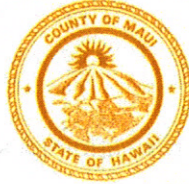
KT/GL:

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.mauicounty.gov

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Wakai,

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 2228, RELATING TO THE REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY CIGARETTE (RIPC) PROGRAM

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports SB 2228, which authorizes additional uses for and appropriates monies in the RIPC program special fund to support the SFC and its programs and activities.

The SFC was established by the Hawaii State (State) Legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshall's office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, State of Hawaii, a representative from the Hawaii State Aircraft Fire Fighting Unit (ARFF), and a representative from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and its administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes § 132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State Legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

On July 6, 2008, during the 24th Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed, and Hawaii became the 36th state requiring only RIPC be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC-compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each brand/style cigarette that was certified for

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
January 22, 2024
Page 2

sale in our state. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before an RIPC Program Specialist was hired on January 16, 2014.

Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawaii's RIPC law. Besides paying for the RIPC Program Specialist's salary, funds from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

At the end of fiscal year 2023, there was approximately \$500,000 in the RIPC special fund. The SFC envisions excess RIPC funds could be used to help assess Hawaii's urban, suburban, rural, and wildland fire risk and develop mitigation strategies.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC urges the committee's approval of SB 2228.

If you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Wakai:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2228 Relating to the Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette (RIPC) Program

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports SB 2228, which authorizes additional uses for and appropriates monies in the RIPC Program special fund to support the Hawai'i State (State) Fire Council (SFC) and its programs and activities.

The SFC was established by the State legislature in 1979 to replace the State Fire Marshal's office. It is currently comprised of the four county Fire Chiefs, a representative from the State Aircraft Fire Fighting Unit, and a representative from the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife and is administratively attached to the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 132, the SFC's primary mission is to develop and support a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State. The SFC promotes the standardization of fire service reporting, training, sharing of technology, resources, and best management practices. The SFC may advise and assist the county fire departments where appropriate; prescribe standard procedures and forms related to inspections, investigations, and reporting of fires; and advise the Governor and State legislature on issues relating to fire prevention and protection and life safety.

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Page 2
January 23, 2024

On July 6, 2008, during the 24th Hawaii State Legislature Regular Session, Act 218 was passed and Hawaii became the 36th state requiring only RIPC be sold in Hawaii. This law took effect on September 30, 2009. More than 700 brand/style cigarettes were certified by the SFC as being RIPC-compliant. A \$375 fee was also attached for each brand/style cigarette that was certified for sale in our state. Almost \$660,000 in RIPC certification fees were collected before an RIPC Program Specialist was hired on January 16, 2014.

Since then, a plan has been formulated and instituted to properly administer Hawaii's RIPC law. Besides paying for the RIPC Program Specialist's salary, funds from the RIPC Special Fund has been used to defray office expenses, field inspections, and random independent testing by certified laboratories.

At the end of fiscal year 2023, there was approximately \$500,000 in the RIPC special fund. The SFC envisions excess RIPC funds could be used to help assess Hawaii's urban, suburban, rural, and wildland fire risk and develop mitigation strategies.

This bill will allow the SFC to fulfill its mission with existing revenue to properly support the educational programs and training for a comprehensive fire service emergency management network for the protection of life, property, and the environment for the State.

The HFD urges your committee's support on the passage of SB 2228.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Page 3
January 23, 2024